

OCA Record

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 REPT # Sen Steven

17 July 1987
 OCA 87-3041

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Physicians Comparability Allowance Act -
 Legislative Status

1. The Physicians Comparability Allowance Amendments (PL 98-168) will expire on 30 September 1987. This law has been an important recruiting tool for OMS. OCA has been tracking this legislation with the Congressional committees that will act to extend the legislation.

2. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, specifically Senator Stevens (R., AL), plans to introduce legislation to extend the benefit in August or September. The staff says that he may attach it to another piece of legislation, an indication that it is a non-controversial issue. The preliminary outlook appears to be favorable.

3. On the House side, the Compensation Subcommittee of House Post Office and Civil Service is waiting for OPM to send up a bill with the administration position which has not happened as of this date. According to the staff, it is possible that the benefit may be extended as in the past or made a permanent benefit provision. There is also consideration being given to increasing the amount of the benefit from \$10,000 up to \$20,000. The staff has drafted its own bill which extends the benefit but they will hold that until they hear from OPM. They have been in touch with OPM to urge them to propose legislation. Once the bill has been passed in the Committee, the staff said that it will probably be moved to the House floor for consideration under suspension of the rules, another indication that it is a non-controversial issue. The outlook is favorable on the House side also.

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